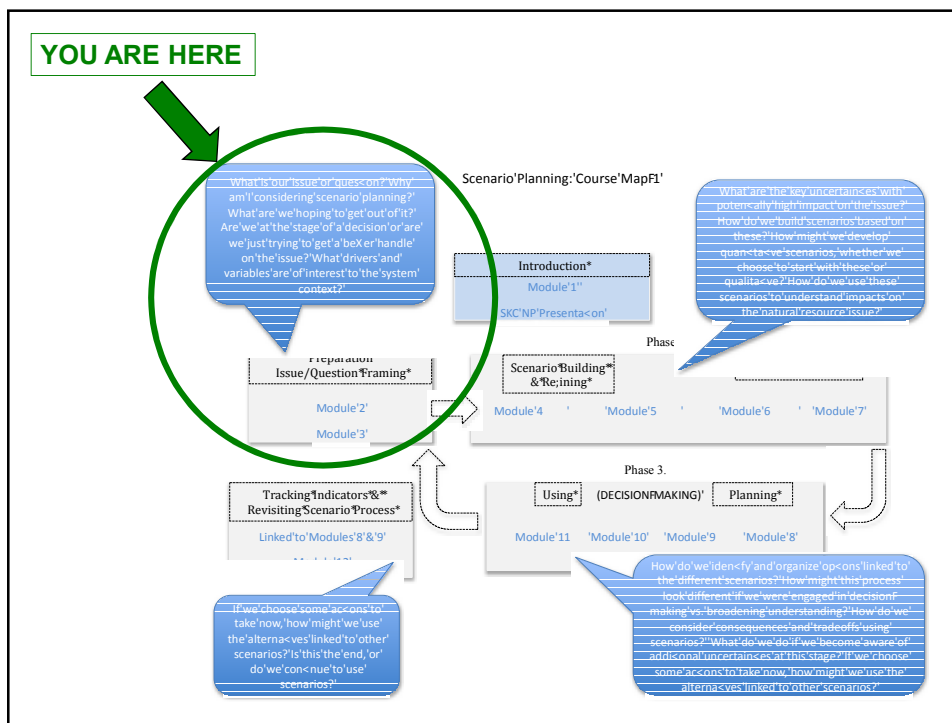


# What IS Your Problem... (or is it a decision opportunity)?

ALC3194: Scenario Planning Toward Climate Change  
Adaptation  
Module 2

Module Developed by:  
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Why spend time framing and  
defining the problem?

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Benefits of framing the problem:

- May solve or simplify the problem

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## Benefits of framing the problem:

- May solve or simplify the problem
- Ups chances of solving the right problem
  - Is the problem as stated within our ability to solve? Is it tractable?
  - Does it capture the core of what matters to us?

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*Failure is likely unless we define the problem so that it's solvable by us*

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## Benefits of framing the problem:

- May solve or simplify problem
- Ups chances of solving the right problem
- Problem frame affects perception of options, risk, connections

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How can we increase energy delivery in this region?

8

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How can we ensure a sufficient energy supply to maintain current lifestyles?

9

How can we increase energy delivery in this region?

How can we ensure a sufficient energy supply to maintain current lifestyles?

How can we respond to the values and desires of our energy users without adding new power-generating capacity?

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## Benefits of framing the problem:

- May solve or simplify problem
- Problem frame affects perception of options, risk, connections
- Ups chances of solving the right problem
- Helps determine appropriate tools and degree of investment

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Let's say you run a Climate Science Center, and you get a request for "decision-relevant scenarios for the Great Lakes"

How would framing this problem affect the number and content of the scenarios you create, and how you create them?

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Key concept:  
Problems as decisions

- Problem: My kid is acting up.
- Decision statement: How can we improve my kid's antisocial behavior?

- Problem: We face competing interests between the public and conservation goals for wetland bird populations and habitat
- Decision statement: How can we optimize management of wetland habitat for bird populations given multiple and competing objectives?

- Problem: I think climate change may cause the wetlands in my Refuge to disappear.
- Decision statement: ?

- Problem: I don't have good downscaled climate models for my region.
- Decision statement: ?



## Developing a decision statement

- **Trigger**
- Action
- Constraints
- Decision Maker(s)
- Frequency and timing
- Scope/scale
- Problem class

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## Framing the decision of whether to use scenario planning

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You're a forest manager, and you've been told to build climate change into your planning and management. You have deadlines to meet. A friend says she's going to a cool SP workshop. You think "gosh, maybe I should try this SP stuff."

*What problems might you be thinking of using SP to address?*

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## Key Messages

- Problem framing is a critical step of any decision/planning effort
- Scenarios can help to promote understanding of issues, objectives, and values among stakeholders in the framing process
- The framing process can inform how scenarios are built and used

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## Connections to Future Modules

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